

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A contract management mechanism is disclosed for managing contracts in the software licensing and other arenas. The management mechanism may be used, for example, to manage one or more fulfillment contracts. In operation (assuming a software  
5 licensing implementation for the sake of example), the management mechanism receives an inquiry regarding licensing of a particular set of software under a particular contract (the contract entitles a customer to consume a certain quota of resources under the contract). In response to the inquiry, the management mechanism determines a licensing amount. This licensing amount may be determined based upon many factors, including  
10 the set of software selected, other parameters specified in the inquiry, and the terms associated with the contract. Once the licensing amount is determined, and the customer commits to licensing the software, the management mechanism reduces the quota parameter of the contract by the licensing amount and allows the software to be used under the contract. Licensing of the software under the fulfillment contract is thus  
15 achieved and managed. Using the same process, other sets of software may be licensed under the same contract.